Affect of Iraq war on tourism

4148. SHRJMATHI SHABANA AZMI: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the tourism industry has called for three-pronged strategy from the Government to counter the negative impact of war in Iraq;

(b) if so, whether Government has been urged to set a crisis management team, service tax exemption for two years and abolition of Inland air travel tax of 15 per cent to boost domestic aviation sector;

(c) if so, to what extent the war had a negative impact on the country's tourism; and

(d) to what extent crisis management team has been able to give recommendations to meet the war impact on tourism?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN):

(a) No specific proposal has been received in this regard.

(b) The question does not arise.

(c) Some sporadic cancellations of tourist groups have been reported. However, there are no reports of any mass cancellation of bookings due to Iraq war.

(d) The question does not arise.

Development of tourist destinations

4149. DR ABRAR AHMED : SHRI RAJEEV SHUKLA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(b) whether Government have decided to develop important tourist destinations and circuits including ancient monuments, places of cultural importance and places of historical importance in consultations with State Govemments/U.T. Administrations; and

(c) if so, the places identified for development during the current years?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Tourist Circuits and destinations for development during the current financial year have not been identified as yet.